

NEED TO KNOW: Backcountry Ecological Expedition (BEE), June 22-27, 2020

- Have your camper read, sign, and submit their camper contract several weeks before camp starts.
- Let us know if there are any changes to the medical information you filled out when you registered.
- **ARRIVE** at Tremont **between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM on Monday, June 22.**
- **PICK UP** your child promptly at **10:00 AM on Saturday, June 27.**

In case of an accident or illness, parents will be notified if children require medical attention beyond what Tremont is able to provide. If we are unable to reach you in an emergency situation, the director will make a decision regarding appropriate action and continue to attempt to contact you or another responsible person as indicated on the medical form. Your child's camping experience depends in part on his or her wellbeing. Please send only a healthy, illness-free child to camp.

CAMPER CONTRACT

Campers participating in our camps need to read and think about each of these guidelines. Read this over together, check and discuss each point, and then agree to these guidelines by signing the contract. Campers must understand, agree to, and abide by these guidelines. These expectations are important in order to create a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved with the program. Each teen will have responsibilities toward the group. They will be expected to carry their share of the group food and equipment, to be physically and mentally ready for the challenges of backpacking, to help with the cooking and cleaning duties, and to participate in all group activities.

ARRIVAL

We will do our best to be efficient as we meet each one of you, review your health form, collect any medications needed at camp and answer any questions you may have regarding your camper's stay. Please have these medications ready for check-in. You will then have the opportunity to help your camper move into the tent cabins, tour the site and say your good-byes. Our sales area will be open on the first and last day of camp.

CAMPER T-SHIRTS

When you check in, you will be given a coupon to purchase a camper t-shirt in our gift store at a discounted price. The coupon is only good for that day.

MEDICATIONS

*We request that you please do **not** take your child off any regularly prescribed medications during their week at summer camp.* The resulting behavior following a sudden change in medicine regime can be difficult for both your child and our staff. We realize that opinions may differ on this. However, camp can be a challenge as it is without further burdening a child with disrupting a routine.

PHONE CALLS

Because telephone calls intrude and interrupt the magic of the camp experience, we are not able to field telephone calls between campers and parents. Rest assured, not hearing from your child is a sign that they are having fun and are fully involved in the life of camp. The best way to stay in touch with your child is by writing letters and postcards. **If there is an emergency**, you can contact us by calling our office Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. When our office is closed, you can leave a message on our answering machine and we will get it first thing the next business morning. If it is urgent to contact us immediately when our office is closed, call the National Park Service Dispatch at 865-436-1294.

MAIL

Every camper loves mail. Start writing those letters now! Rather than writing how much you miss your son or daughter (which is of course true but could make them homesick), consider instead telling him or her how proud you are of them for spending a week away from home! Send mail to:

(Camper's name)
BEE
Tremont
9275 Tremont Rd
Townsend, TN 37882

SAFETY

We are proud to report that we have an outstanding safety record when it comes to kids and the outdoors. However, we do take the concerns of parents very seriously and have provided some insight into risk factors during summer camp. Please call or visit our web site if you're interested in learning more about precautions we take to ensure your child has a safe experience.

LOST AND FOUND

When picking up your child on the last day of camp, please make sure they return home with every item they brought with them. Following the end of camp we are able to keep items for only a brief period due to the large amount of lost and found items left behind. If you wish any items to be returned to you, you must notify us immediately following the end of camp and we'll send you instructions to arrange for a UPS pick up.

ABOUT "BEE":

We have all kinds of adventures in store. This camp is an ecological canoe expedition on Fontana Lake in North Carolina. We will leave Tremont on Tuesday morning and return on Friday afternoon. We may find ourselves crawling through the undergrowth in search of rare snails, snorkeling the creeks to collect sneaky crawfish, or soaking in the wonders a summer evening on a night paddle.

During this expedition, campers will learn not only backcountry living skills, but also field ecology techniques—from sampling aquatic macroinvertebrates to catching crayfish. Our field mission is to document as many organisms (invertebrates, birds, amphibians, plants, etc.) as possible as part of the park's All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, an ambitious project that has brought scientists from all over the world to the Smokies to document its incredible biodiversity.

Our mission here at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is to convey respect and stewardship of the earth. Our motto is "connecting people and nature." You will have many opportunities to discover how to feel at home in the outdoors while learning new ways you can help to protect our home, the earth. Our professional staff cares about making your experience at Backcountry Ecological Expedition truly unforgettable. They are knowledgeable in a wide array of natural history subjects and outdoor recreation skills. Our living environment emphasizes cooperation, friendship, fun, concern for others, and love of people and nature. We try to illustrate these messages in the tent cabins, around the campfire, on the trails—everywhere we go and in everything we do.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT

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